



WE LOOK OUT FOR LONG ISLAND

**LONG ISLAND ASSOCIATION
FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL PRIORITIES
AND INITIATIVES FOR 2019**





The Long Island Association's Priorities and Initiatives for 2019 include the critical issues, policies and projects we will advocate for on behalf of the Long Island business community this year. We are committed to achieving these objectives in order to create jobs, spur private investment, promote economic development, create affordable housing, reduce the federal, state and local tax burden and improve the overall business climate in our region. The LIA will continue to collaborate with other organizations on Long Island and throughout the state to build support for these initiatives.

Top Priorities for 2019

STATE

1. Make the New York State property tax cap permanent and support a 2% cap on state spending growth in light of the loss of federal income tax deductions for state and local taxes ("SALT").
2. Support efforts to make Long Island the offshore wind capital of our country. Support the Governor's call for 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind; a port for the manufacturing and assembly of wind turbines; the new National Offshore Wind Research and Development Consortium at Stony Brook University and efforts to use the Dowling College campus in Shirley and/or EPCAL in Calverton for manufacturing of Purpose-Built Unmanned Aircraft to support the offshore wind industry.
3. Oppose any new single payer state health insurance system that would impose unnecessary or onerous costs, mandates and burdens on the business community
4. Support continued state funding for the creation of a Research Corridor from Brookhaven National Laboratory to the New York Genome Center in Manhattan, increased funding for federal research agencies that collaborate with our world-class local assets and facilities, and support the proposed Center for Autism and Therapeutic Modalities at Molloy College, the Wellbridge Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Research Center at Calverton, and a new school of engineering at Stony Brook University.
5. Support the state's efforts to redevelop Belmont Park. Address the community concerns about traffic with an enhanced and expanded LIRR station and rail service in both directions for the New York Islanders' proposed new arena at Belmont. Support relocating and combining all downstate horse racing at Belmont Park.

FEDERAL

1. Advocate for the full reinstatement of SALT deductions as the federally approved cap on them will inequitably impact our region.
2. Support Brookhaven National Laboratory's efforts to secure an Electron-Ion Collider (eRHIC), a world-leading research machine that would explore the subatomic world—bringing with it a multi-billion dollar investment by the federal government on Long Island—along with a major investment by New York State to upgrade the laboratory's current infrastructure in support of this next-generation 21st-century research facility.
3. Participate in an Island-wide campaign to advocate for a fair and accurate 2020 Census as the data is used by the federal and state governments to allocate money to our region; businesses rely on the demographic information to find customers and workers; and congressional representation is dependent on the findings.
4. Support the Northeast Supply Enhancement Project to meet the demand for natural gas for new development projects in our region.
5. Oppose federal plans to permit oil and gas drilling off the coast of Long Island, which would considerably damage our environment and our economy.

LOCAL

1. Support our new Nassau Hub Coalition's efforts to help secure local approvals and state funding for the redevelopment at the Nassau Hub, including the creation of a live, work, play Innovation District with a Biotech Park surrounding anchor tenant Northwell Health; a BRT system to Hempstead and Mineola LIRR stations; affordable housing; and green pedestrian crossings to Hofstra University, Nassau Community College and RXR Plaza as well as a structured parking facility to maximize the usage for the remaining acreage surrounding the newly renovated Nassau Coliseum.
2. Build regional support for the expansion of Long Island MacArthur Airport with new airlines and destinations, and strengthen its connectivity to the LIRR station at Ronkonkoma. Also, support Suffolk County and Town of Islip efforts to redevelop the south side of the Ronkonkoma Hub adjacent to the airport, including a privately financed sports, entertainment and health care hub, along with a state-of-the-art convention center.
3. Support efforts to ensure Nassau and Suffolk County residents and businesses benefit from Amazon's move to Long Island City, including partnering with the company in our region's efforts to foster an innovation economy.
4. Support more investment in sewage infrastructure and 21st century septic systems in the region that allows for mixed-use and transit-oriented development projects, especially those that will increase the supply of rental housing on Long Island.
5. Support legislation to move tax assessment responsibility from Nassau County to the towns and cities in Nassau County as is done in Suffolk County.

Infrastructure



- Support the ongoing efforts of Governor Cuomo and the Port Authority to modernize and redevelop LaGuardia Airport and John F. Kennedy Airport to meet the needs of the 21st century economy with public-private partnerships that will leverage billions of dollars in new investments, enhance amenities, increase capacity, reduce congestion and establish a new AirTrain that will connect the airport and the Mets-Willets Point LIRR station in Flushing, Queens, which will give Long Islanders additional options and convenience for air travel.
- Support the Gateway Program to expand and renovate the Northeast Corridor rail line between New York and New Jersey, and the Regional Plan Association's proposal to take the existing Gateway plan and extend it beneath the East River to Queens to allow riders to travel from New Jersey to Long Island.
- Support a New York State Department of Transportation Capital Plan that fully funds critical road, highway and bridge projects on Long Island, including New York Route 347, the Oakdale Merge, Sagtikos Parkway widening, Northern State Parkway widening, Meadowbrook Parkway at Southern State Parkway capacity improvements and the Long Island Expressway at Shelter Rock Road.
- Support efforts to upgrade and improve our telecommunications infrastructure, including the expansion of small cell technology to increase capacity for wireless devices and bringing gigabit broadband service to our region, which will attract new innovative businesses to Long Island, help existing businesses meet and exceed the needs of their clients and customers, generate additional job growth and expand the capabilities of our universities, hospitals and research institutions.
- Support the deployment of next generation telecommunication technology, including fiber-to-the-home and small cell antennae throughout Long Island to develop communications networks that enable Long Island companies to be competitive in a 21st Century global economy.
- Support additional investments in the LIRR, including electrification of the system to a new station at or near Brookhaven National Laboratory in Yaphank and eventually to Riverhead, as well as to Port Jefferson and Patchogue, continue to educate the public and build support of the East Side Access tunnel which will bring the LIRR directly to Grand Central Station with a new two-level terminal constructed below the station.

- Support the Governor's plans to transform Penn Station and the James A. Farley Post Office into a world-class transportation hub known as the Empire Station Complex, while ensuring adequate space there for the LIRR, the opening of a new Republic Airport rail station, and improved subway service for Long Island's commuters in New York City.
- Support funding for Round IX of the state's Regional Economic Development Councils which includes core capital and tax credit funding combined with a wide range of existing agency programs. Also, support funding for Round IV of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative which invests millions of dollars to help transform communities ripe for development into vibrant neighborhoods.
- Request the New York State Department of Transportation to continue evaluating a new Long Island Sound crossing such as a bridge or tunnel to improve traffic on and off Long Island and better connect our economy to New England and encourage the federal government to pay for it as part of any National Infrastructure Program that may be proposed by the federal government in 2019.
- Remain open to supporting some recommendations from the Governor's Fix NYC Task Force conditioned upon revenues being directed exclusively to the maintenance, improvement and expansion of mass transit as well as to bus service in the suburbs such as NICE in Nassau County and Suffolk Transportation in Suffolk County, and conditioned upon the prohibition of the restoration of the commuter tax (repealed in 1999) or any expansion of the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation Mobility Tax (began in 2009 and modified in 2011), and work with Nassau and Suffolk Counties to ensure each county receives its fair share of state aid to support their bus systems.
- Support new programs to increase connectivity between our region's academic and research institutions with nearby downtowns, including a pilot shuttle bus service connecting Stony Brook University with the Villages of Stony Brook and Port Jefferson.
- Support the Port Authority's Cross-Harbor Freight Program to improve the movement of freight and goods across the Hudson River and New York Harbor, which will spur job creation and enhance the region's economic competitiveness in a more efficient, environmentally friendly and cost-effective method for Long Island and other parts of the state.
- Support the QueensLink project which would reactivate the Rockaway Beach Branch of the LIRR.
- Support expansion of the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program, which provides federal credit assistance to finance surface transportation projects of national and regional significance to small municipalities who can then use the funding to borrow against their projects.



Energy

- Support the expansion of natural gas by boosting imports and distributing it via existing and/or new petroleum pipelines, the importation of more hydropower from Upstate and Canada, and incentives for biofuels.
- Support mediated settlements of LIPA's remaining tax certiorari lawsuits against municipalities to ensure equity for the region and fairness for the host communities.
- Support the state's Reforming the Energy Vision efforts to address climate change and create a clean energy economy on Long Island by encouraging the growth of the region's renewable energy industries, including the planned Orsted-Deepwater Wind offshore wind farm and others being considered for the Atlantic Ocean by NYSERDA in its RFP for 800 megawatts of new capacity, and the continued development of solar power and electric and fuel-efficient vehicles.
- Promote the efforts of Stony Brook University and Brookhaven National Laboratory to advance micro grids, battery testing and development and super-conductivity on Long Island, attracting R&D-focused companies to take advantage of the human capital and physical plants of these institutions; also support the creation of a world-leading, multi-scale Bio-Imaging facility at the lab.
- Support investments in Long Island's energy infrastructure to ensure available and reliable power while strengthening the resiliency of the grid to withstand extreme weather events like Superstorm Sandy.
- Support expansion of the natural gas distribution system to presently underserved areas which will result in a more efficient, affordable and cleaner fuel source and support expeditious approvals by state agencies on permit and other regulatory requests so businesses can move forward and invest in a timely way.
- Support a standardized commercial wind permitting building code as was approved for the solar industry.
- Support the proposed anaerobic digester project in Yaphank which will be the most sophisticated food waste processing facility in the world.



Innovation Economy

- Prepare for the transition to and harness the potential of artificial intelligence on Long Island to enhance, not replace workers, and to position Long Island as a region for AI research and development to flourish.
- Coordinate “LI-Bio” – a committee of the LIA that serves as a platform to help expand Long Island’s burgeoning sector of companies focused on biotechnology and life sciences and that acts as a forum for those in these industries to network and collaborate with “NY-Bio” activities. Also, build upon the life sciences initiatives announced by Governor Cuomo and potential synergies and opportunities between New York City and Long Island.
- Continue to assist our academic institutions with participating in the Excelsior Business Program and other state and local economic development efforts to spur the growth of high-tech and biotech startup companies on Long Island. Also, continue to administratively support Accelerate Long Island.
- Support Long Island’s public and private colleges and universities; increased federal funding for student aid programs such as Pell Grants, Federal Work-Study, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, and the Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need program; increased state funding for SUNY and our community colleges; and additional TAP and Bundy Aid, an improved Enhanced Tuition Awards program through elimination of price controls and an allowance for schools to count the money they already invest in financial aid as part of the required match and the creation of a dedicated R&D fund for our private schools.
- Support increased federal investment in scientific research, the Long Island Bioscience Hub (“LIBH”) and continued funding of the National Institutes of Health Research Evaluation and Commercialization Hubs (“NIH REACH”); support funding for a Long Island regional proposal under the New York State Life Sciences Initiative that will catalyze biomedical innovation, accelerate commercialization and foster company formation in areas of critical importance to New York State public health; implement a Small Business Innovation Research/Small Business Technology Transfer (“SBIR/STTR”) Phase I/Phase II matching funds program to help develop emerging bioscience companies; and support the LIBH Bioentrepreneur in Residence initiative to recruit serial entrepreneurs to the region by providing milestone based incentives tied to company formation, all of which will fuel economic growth, foster entrepreneurship and catalyze new company formation across New York State.

- Support continued funding of the engineering initiative that would allow universities on Long Island to increase the number of degrees awarded in engineering and computer science fields.
- Support continued funding for the Stony Brook Cancer Center's application to the NIH to obtain National Cancer Institute status.
- Support federal immigration reform to increase the number of H-1B visas and ensure highly skilled immigrants can legally enter and stay in the U.S. to help drive Long Island's innovation economy.
- Support changing "Buy America" rules to include information technology and intellectual property.
- Support our great K-12 schools and workforce development programs to ensure a strong labor force for the future, the retention of those talented graduates on Long Island, more participation in STEM programs and investments in modernized facilities while encouraging public-private partnerships in education using alternative education models and career and technical opportunities provided by Nassau and Suffolk BOCES.
- Continue to support existing and new manufacturing companies and the applied science industries.
- Support efforts to make our region safer from cybersecurity attacks and efforts to create a cybersecurity industry on Long Island.
- Continue to assist businesses with the Global NY program to expand international trade for Long Island companies with foreign countries, especially those linked to manufacturing.



Rental Housing/Land-Use/Regionally Significant Projects

- Help attract and facilitate private investment in the new federal Opportunity Zone program and encourage capital investment to underserved areas on Long Island.
- Support specific mixed-use and rental projects that are significant to our region, including Syosset Park in Oyster Bay and projects in downtown Lindenhurst, Hicksville, Baldwin, Wyandanch, Hempstead, Bay Shore, Oceanside and other communities while continuing to support the overall redevelopment of EPCAL in Riverhead. Also, support Governor Cuomo's proposal to invest in the growth of the business districts in Smithtown and Kings Park, and advocate for similar investments in St. James, with sewer investments in those downtowns.

- Support the Long Island Builders Institute’s proposed legislation that would require a bond be submitted by the party appealing a land-use decision pursuant to Article 78 of the New York State CPLR in order to protect project sponsors from associated costs relating to delays caused by these appeals of municipal decisions.
- Support state legislation that would allow municipalities to implement a “professional certification” program in order to save commercial landlords time and money when they are making non-complex changes to their buildings in order to attract or keep tenants, thus allowing a municipality in certain circumstances to issue a building permit/certificate of occupancy by relying on the certification of a Professional Engineer or Registered Architect that the building renovations were completed in compliance with applicable building and zoning laws and codes.
- Support specific affordable, rental and multifamily housing goals for each municipality on Long Island and increased funding for the Employer Assisted Housing Program to support businesses in recruiting and retaining needed and qualified personnel on Long Island.
- Support efforts to improve New York State's Brownfields program that would increase the construction of rental housing on these sites.
- Improve the State Environmental Quality Review Act to streamline municipal permitting programs in order to give developers and businesses a more certain, workable timetable for the environmental review of major projects.
- Support the creation of a special New York State Supreme Court for land-use litigation to allow courts to develop expertise in the field and to accelerate judicial decisions.



Human Resources, Natural Resources and our Local Communities

- Build on the success of the LIA’s Women’s Collaborative by supporting equal pay for equal work and educating businesses about workplace sexual harassment and sexual discrimination, while encouraging more women to enter careers in the STEM field and advance to C-Suite executive positions.
- Support and promote actions that will make child care and early education more affordable and accessible to all working families on Long Island that will lead to additional economic development opportunities, workplace productivity and retention of more young professionals and families. Also, advocate for equitable state funding for pre-kindergarten education and a regional technical assistance center for Long Island.

- Support the implementation of the state's \$2.5 billion Clean Water Infrastructure Act, approved in 2017, and ensure Long Island receives its fair share of funding in 2019 for investments in clean drinking and surface waters, new sewers and upgraded septic systems and other environmental protection measures.
- Support capital investments in critical sewage infrastructure projects such as the Bay Park Sewer Outfall Pipe, the Nassau County Bay Park/Cedar Creek sewer plant connection and the proposed creation or expansion of Suffolk County sewers districts.
- Work with Organized Labor to support efforts to create good-paying careers for its members and for our region.
- Support the work of the groundwater resource protection plans being prepared by the Long Island Regional Planning Council and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (while not overregulating or hindering the business community) to reduce nitrogen and other harmful pollutants as our economy is strengthened by a healthy environment and a degraded environment produces fewer jobs.
- Encourage collaboration with municipalities to develop regional solutions that address the looming crisis in solid waste management, landfill closure and the volatile recycling market.
- Support programs and policies to respond to the opioid crisis which is also negatively impacting employers, employees and the overall economy, as well as more state funding for drug education and prevention in our schools.
- Support the financial viability of our not-for-profit hospitals in Nassau and Suffolk Counties and their employees, while opposing federal cuts to the 340B prescription drug program, Medicare and Medicaid as it would cost our hospitals millions of dollars per year and negatively impact service; and support state aid for teaching hospitals.
- Help ensure fair and equitable federal and state rules to expand and promote sustainable agriculture, fisheries, wineries, aquaculture and the tourism industries, particularly on the East End.
- Advocate for the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets to declare cannabis an agricultural crop under its jurisdiction in order to facilitate Long Island's farmers to grow it and benefit from any legalization efforts.
- Support the LIA's Young Professionals Committee to help train the next generation of business leaders, provide opportunities for employees ages 22-35 to network and collaborate, integrate their input in confronting the challenges facing young people on Long Island and take the necessary actions to attract and retain young people in the region such as more affordable rental housing and home ownership opportunities, better access to child care and help with student loan debt while modifying the workplace to make it more appealing to millennials and Generation Z.
- Support measures to improve and expedite New York's foreclosure process to address the problem of vacant and abandoned properties in foreclosure, relieve the backlogged court system, reduce the amount of time homes sit in disrepair and promote neighborhood stability.

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- Advocate that New York State and Nassau County adopt the Suffolk County Plastic Bag Bill to curb the use of plastic bags, encourage reusable bags without harming retailers.
- Support our cultural arts, environmental and recreational activities to promote Long Island as a great place to live, work, visit and play.
- Help sustain and strengthen the not-for-profit industry on Long Island as it is a significant economic generator and an essential social services resource for the region.
- Support the burgeoning film and television industry on Long Island.
- Support Discover Long Island, the region’s official tourism promotion agency for Nassau and Suffolk Counties and efforts to leverage resources for the region for destination marketing and economic development opportunities, and ensure equitable state funding for the region from the “I Love NY” campaign.
- Work with local Chambers of Commerce to encourage shopping in our downtowns, establish business-to-business communications to serve the needs of the small business community and maintain Long Island as an appealing destination for major retailers.
- Support new laws, education and the efforts of the Nassau and Suffolk County Police Departments, and other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, to address and reduce crime and eradicate gangs in order to maintain our low crime rate and the region’s high standard of public safety.
- Support the new Brentwood Community Hub and a public-private partnership to operate it.
- Strengthen New York State gun control laws, including legislation mandating background checks of proposed buyers prior to the sale of any firearms by both dealers and private firearm sellers to ensure workplace and school safety.
- Support equality and diversity on Long Island and speak out against speech that breeds hatred, especially against undocumented immigrants, which is wrong and hurts the perception of our business region. Continue to support our local minority- and women-owned businesses by working with the Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce, the Long Island Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the LIA’s Women’s Collaborative, while protecting and supporting the rights of children and adults with disabilities to ensure fairness in the allocation of federal and state procurement opportunities for businesses and in matters of public policy.
- Support Long Island’s veterans’ population – the largest in New York State – and programs that would provide additional funding for job training, employment placement and other essential assistance to the heroes who served our country.
- Support legislative reforms to make the New York State court system more efficient, more accessible to litigants and less costly to businesses, and support the creation of a 5th Department of the Appellate Division for Nassau and Suffolk Counties.



Reduce the Property Tax Burden and Support Tax Policies to Enhance the Business Climate in our Region

Mandate Relief

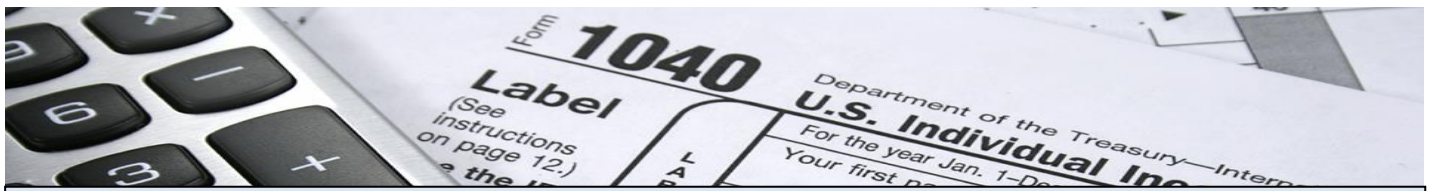
- Curb soaring Medicaid costs for county governments by requesting the state take over each county's local share, as is done in most states. This would help stabilize the finances for both Nassau and Suffolk Counties.
- Support efforts to ensure that the state's family and medical leave law and proposed regulations to establish a 14-day advance notice for employee scheduling do not create additional burdens on businesses and encourage the state to allow for exemptions for small businesses.
- Support accelerating the completion of the state's analysis of the effect of the next minimum wage increases statewide currently scheduled for 2019 to determine whether a temporary suspension, elimination or longer phase-in of the scheduled increases is necessary, and support measures to provide tax credits for employers who offer benefits in addition to paying minimum wages, increase the minimum wage tax credit available for student employees ages 16 to 19 years old as the credit has held at \$1.35 since 2016 and increase the age limit to capture full-time enrolled undergraduate college students.
- Eliminate unfunded and underfunded mandates imposed by the state to help local governments and school districts comply with the property tax cap and oppose any new unfunded and underfunded mandates.
- Reduce the cost of construction by repealing the state's Wicks Law which adds to the cost of public projects.
- Support relief from the New York State Department of Financial Services through an "Insurance State of Emergency" to provide a fair and competitive insurance market for construction projects while continuing to pursue reform of the state's Scaffold Law by making liability standards against owners of construction projects less onerous and more fair in terms of fault allocation and liability standards.
- Support the expansion and permanent extension of the design-build method of project delivery.

- Support a new, comprehensive reform package for workers' compensation and unemployment insurance to help lower costs to businesses such as reviewing and modifying the 2017 Scheduled Loss of Use (SLU) guidelines as its earlier incarnations would have had an impact on awards while limiting the ability a judge's discretion; and with unemployment at low levels but wage base increases resulting in higher unemployment taxes, the state should provide commensurate relief.

Controlling the Cost of Public Pensions, Salaries and Benefits

- Support legislation that would require all public employees participating in the New York State Retirement System to contribute 25% towards their health insurance costs.
- Expand the New York State retirement system Tier VI's optional defined contribution plan (currently available to non-union employees salaried at \$75,000 and higher) to include all existing and future employees.
- Support legislation affecting all public employees who participate in the New York State Retirement System to reduce the future retirement earnings credit for a year of government service to 1.5%; to increase the retirement age to 66; and prohibit use of any overtime in calculating the final salaries pensions are based upon, all of which will help stabilize the pension fund.
- Support legislation that would end binding arbitration for public sector labor disputes and/or support a cap on mandatory arbitration awards.
- Repeal the portion of the Triborough Amendment that requires automatic salary step increases to be paid to public employees after labor contracts expire.
- Support school, special district and municipal consolidation measures.
- Support ethics reforms and campaign finance reforms as corruption in all levels of government hurts the region's business climate.





Taxes and Regulatory Policies

- Advocate for any revenues generated by the proposed legalization of adult use cannabis be directed toward property tax relief for residential and commercial property owners, or be limited to addiction recovery facilities and communities that have been historically negatively impacted from marijuana and drug dealing.
- Advocate that the proposed legalization of sports betting not be limited to upstate casinos so Long Island has equitable opportunities to benefit from this new revenue source that could be allocated to tax relief and infrastructure investments.
- Support proceeds generated by the potential establishment of an internet sales tax be directed toward property tax relief.
- Advocate for a more equitable share of federal and state government funding as our updated Balance of Payments Report shows Long Islanders send \$27 billion more to Albany and Washington, D.C. in tax revenues than we receive in state and federal aid and benefits in return, which will only increase in light of the cap on SALT deductions.
- Support broad based federal and state tax relief measures to modernize business, make our tax structure more competitive, lower costs on businesses and keep New Yorkers from leaving the state.
- Eliminate the New York State estate tax.
- Modify the federal poverty limit so it reflects our region's higher cost of living.
- Advocate for increased cooperation among states to reform and ease shipping and tax laws so Long Island wines can reach new markets.
- Cut the federal and New York State capital gains taxes to incentivize businesses to locate here and reward savings and investment as we have one of the highest combined rates on the top marginal tax rate in the country.
- Advocate for payment of past due real property tax refund judgments to Nassau County commercial property owners.
- Further reduce federal and state corporate tax rates.
- Oppose any additional federal and state taxes, assessments, fees and unnecessary regulations that hurt job growth and economic development.
- Work with the Suffolk County Alliance of Chambers to support federal and state legislation that would offer small businesses with fewer than 50 employees an option to create a tax deferred savings account similar to a 401k or IRA with tax-free deposits of funds and withdrawals that would be limited to the purposes of creating or retaining full-time jobs during an economic downturn or to recover from a natural disaster.



WE LOOK OUT FOR LONG ISLAND



Long Island Association

LEADING LONG ISLAND

300 Broadhollow Road, Suite 110W, Melville, NY 11747

(631)493-3000

www.longislandassociation.org